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AUTHOR Lizcano, Jeannette; Garza, Laura Leticia
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ABSTRACT

"El Cinco de Mayo", a commemoration of when Mexican troops defeated French invaders, is the topic of this unit developed for the Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program of the Crystal City Independent School District (Crystal City, Texas). As unit objectives, the students are to demonstrate their comprehension of the significance of "el cinco de mayo" by (1) answering correctly 8 of the 10 test questions and (2) participating in oral discussions utilizing four study questions. The study questions are: (1) Why do we celebrate "el cinco de mayo"? (2) What kind of celebration is held in Crystal City for "el cinco de mayo"? (3) Who was Benito Juarez? Why do we have a statue of him by the City Hall? and (4) In what way can the struggle of the Mexican people against the French be compared to the Chicano Movement? The unit's narrative section consists of both an English and a Spanish version. The 10 test questions are also included. (NQ)

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El Cinco De Mayo

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"ENTRE LOS INDIVIDUOS
COMO ENTRE LAS NACIONES
EL RESPETO AL DERECHO
AJENO ES LA PAZ"

008037

Crystal City Independent School District
Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program
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CINCO DE MAYO

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Narración Escrita Por:

Jeanette Lizcano
Laura Leticia Garza

Narration Written By:

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Ilustrado Por:

María Elena García

Illustrated By:

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El Cinco de Mayo

El Cinco de Mayo es una celebración muy popular y estimulante para los Chicanos. La mayoría de las comunidades Chicanas tienen festivales similiares a las celebraciones y buenos tiempos que pasamos en la Ciudad de Cristal.

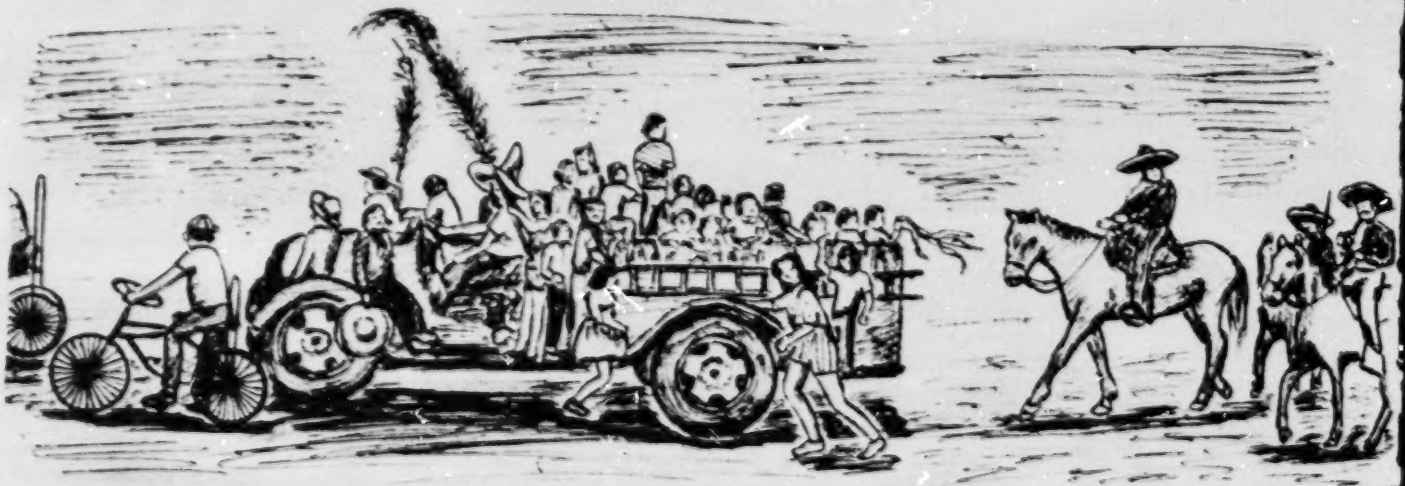
En México, el Cinco de Mayo es una remembranza de cuando las tropas Mexicanas obtuvieron la victoria en la invasión Francesa.

Don Benito Juárez ocupaba la Presidencia cuando los Franceses invadieron a México. Por su amor a México y por la gran responsabilidad en sus obligaciones, Juárez ha quedado en la memoria de los Mexicanos como uno de los Presidentes más respetado.

El Cinco de Mayo is a popular and exciting celebration for Chicanos. In most Chicano communities there are parades and festivities similar to the parade and good times celebrated in Crystal City.

In Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is a remembrance of when Mexican troops defeated French invaders.

Benito Juárez was president at the time the French invaded Mexico. Because of his great love for Mexico and devotion to his duties, Juárez remains as one of Mexico's best loved and most respected presidents. He is even honored in Crystal City where a small statue of Juárez stands at the



Cinco de Mayo en Cristal

Cinco de Mayo in Crystal City

Hasta en la Ciudad de Cristal se le ha honrado a Juárez, prueba de ello es la estatua que se encuentra en nuestra ciudad, con las palabras que lo hicieron célebre. "Entre Los Individuos, como entre las Naciones, El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz."

Juárez, un indio Zapoteca, salió de su casa a la edad de 12 años sin zapatos y sin dinero, caminó hasta la Ciudad de Oaxaca, llegando a casa de Don Antonio Mazza. Su hermana trabajaba de cocinera en casa de la familia Mazza quienes eran ricos gachupines Italianos.

Viviendo en casa de esta familia Juárez ingresó de aprendiz con un cura, teniendo además, la oportunidad de asistir a la escuela. En ese tiempo no había escuelas para

City Hall with his words, "Entre Los Individuos, como entre Las Naciones, El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz."

Benito Juárez era un Indio Zapoteca

Benito Juárez was a Zapotec Indian

Juárez was a Zapotec who left home at age twelve. Barefoot and penniless, he walked to Oaxaca and found the home of Don Antonio Mazza. His sister was a cook in the home of the Mazzas who were wealthy Italian gachupines.

la comunidad India. Juárez aprendió el Español muy rápido pues era excelente estudiante y se interesaba en leer todos los libros que encontraba. A la edad de 15 años Juárez ingresó al seminario pero al concluir sus estudios, decidió no ordenarse para cura. Saliendo del seminario entró a estudiar Leyes en el Colegio Civil.

En 1828 Antonio Santa Anna ocupaba la Presidencia, y fué invitado de honor en un banquete ofrecido por el Colegio. En dicho banquete se encontraban sirviendo solamente los mejores estudiantes. Cuando le fueron presentados al Presidente estos estudiantes, este dió cuenta que uno de ellos "Juárez" se encontraba descalzo. Santa Anna predijo para Juárez que nunca llegaría a ser una persona importante. Unos años más tarde Santa Anna recordaría estos pensamientos.

Juárez recibió el título de Abogado e ingresó a la Política en el año de 1831. Juárez ganó importancia en el Gobierno Estatal, siendo uno de los pocos indios que llegaron a ocupar puesto de oficina. El año de 1837 a la edad de 37

Living the Mazza home, Juárez was apprenticed to a priest to learn a trade and had a chance to go to school. At that time, there were no schools in the Indian communities. Juárez soon learned Spanish and became an excellent student, reading every book available. At fifteen, Juárez entered a seminary but after completing his studies, decided he did not want to become a priest. Leaving the seminary, he became a law student at a civil college.

In 1828, Antonio Santa Anna, who was then president, was a guest of honor at a banquet held at the school. Only the top students were allowed to serve at the banquet. When the students were introduced to the president, Santa Anna noticed that one, Benito Juárez, was barefooted. Santa Anna dismissed Juárez as a person who would never become important. Years later, he would remember the meeting.

Juárez received his law degree in 1831 and entered politics. Rising in importance in the state government, Juárez was one of the very few Indians to hold office. In 1837,

años, Juárez contrajo matrimonio con Margarita Mazza siendo ésta, hija de la familia que primero ayudara a Juárez. Margarita, contando con sólo 17 años de edad, quiso mucho a Juárez.

"El no es guapo pero es muy bueno," esto es lo que Margarita le escribió a una amiga.

Cuando Juárez ocupó el puesto de Gobernador de Oaxaca, contaba con 42 años de edad. En ese tiempo era el puesto mas alto que un Indio había llegado a ocupar en México. El día que Juárez Tomó posesión formal de la Gubernatura, asistieron a este acto muchos indios que venían desde las montañas, trayendo regalos, como maíz, animales, fruta y otros productos del campo. Juárez se dió cuenta que estas persones no tenían un lugar para dormir, y decidió dejarles poner sus colchas en los corredores y patios del Palacio de Gobierno. A la mañana siguiente Juárez le dió un peso a cada uno de los Indios diciéndoles que esto era el primer pago de una deuda que tenía intención de pagar.

at age 37, Juárez married Margarita Mazza, daughter of the family who had first helped him. Margarita was only 17 but cared very much for Juárez.

"He is very homely, but very good", Margarita wrote to a friend.

When Juárez became governor of Oaxaca, he was forty-two. At the time, it was the highest office an Indian had ever achieved in Mexico. On inauguration day, many Indians came from their mountain villages bringing gifts—corn, fruit, live chickens and other farm products. Juárez knew they had no place to sleep that night and allowed them to spread their bedrolls in the corridors and patios of the lavish governor's palace. In the morning, Juárez gave each Indian a peso, telling them it was the first installment of a debt he intended to repay.

Benito Juárez kept his promise to the Indians. Fifty new schools were constructed and a highway was built to the coast which helped the economy. He also made many

Benito Juárez cumplió su promesa a los indios. Se construyeron 50 nuevas escuelas y una carretera en la costa que ayudó mucho a la economía, haciendo además muchas reformas para ayudar a la gente pobre de Oaxaca.

No obstante Juárez empezó a ser popular y querido entre la gente de México, pero también hizo muchos enemigos. El Gobierno Mexicano fue dividido en dos fuertes bandos, los liberales que luchaban por la Reforma, y los conservadores que deseaban establecer la moranquía.

Al terminar su período en las oficinas de Gobierno, Juárez fue capturado por las fuerzas de los Conservadores y expulsado a los Estados Unidos con otros políticos Liberales

Una serie de aventuras trajo a Juárez a su amado México, sólo para ver a su país en disturbio y agitación.

Una rebelión contra Santa Anna lo llevó a la Presidencia vacante. Juárez volvió a ser Presidente, pero tenía mucha oposición de parte de los Conservadores. La

other reforms to help the poor people of Oaxaca.

Although Juárez was becoming popular by the poor people and loved in Mexico, he was also making many enemies. The Mexican government was divided into two strong factions-the liberals, who wanted change and reform and the conservatives, who wanted to establish a monarchy.

En Cristal se le ha dado el nombre de Benito Juárez a esta nueva escuela primaria.

After finishing his term in the governor's office, Juárez was captured by conservative forces and exiled to the United States with other liberals politicians.

A series of adventures led Juárez back to his beloved Mexico only to see the country in turnmoil. A rebellion against Santa Anna left the presidency vacant. Juárez became president, but had much opposition from conservatives.

Iglesia Católica los favoreció y les dió asistencia. En este tiempo la Iglesia estaba muy rica y tenía gran control sobre el Gobierno y sus oficiales en México. Aún así, los Liberales pensaban que la Iglesia y el Gobierno debían separarse. En 1860, los liberales ganaron la guerra. Los Estados Unidos fue el único poder mundial que reconoció el Gobierno de Juárez. La Monarquía Europea deseaba que los Conservadores triunfaran para que se estableciera en México la Monarquía.

The Catholic Church favored and gave them assistance. At this time, the Church was very wealthy and had a great deal of control over government and officials in Mexico. The liberals, however, believed that Church and government should be separate.

By 1869, the liberals were winning the war. The United States was the only major world power that recognized Juárez's government. The European monarchies wanted to see the conservatives win so that another monarchy would be established in Mexico.

Los Conservadores en México ofrecieron la corona a Maximiliano.

Conservatives in Mexico offered Maximilian the crown.

Los Conservadores al ser expulsados de México, visitaron a Napoleón III Gobernador de Francia y lo señarlaron como Emperador de México.

Conservatives who were exiled in Mexico visited Napaleon III, ruler of France and invited him to appoint an emperor for Mexico. The

El Archiduque Maximiliano hermano del Rey de Austria y su esposa Carlota hija del Rey de Belgium les aconsejaron volver a México. Maximiliano y Carlota al principio se inquietaron pues no deseaban gobernar un país en el que no fueran bien recibidos, pero los Conservadores les aseguraron que México deseaba tener un Rey.

Archduke Maximilian, brother of the King of Austria and his wife, Carlota, daughter of the King of Belgium were asked to go to Mexico. Maximilian and Carlota hesitated at first because they did not want to rule a country in which they were not welcome. But conservatives assured them that Mexico wanted a King.

Maximiliano y Carlota, fueron invitados para gobernar a México.

Maximilian and Carlota were asked to become rulers of Mexico.

Poco después en México, armas de Inglaterra, España y Francia insistían en una deuda de la guerra anterior. La Nación Méxicana no podía pagar la deuda reclamada por los 3 países y el único país que podía ayudar a Juárez era los Estados Unidos pero en ese tiempo éste se encontraba en una Guerra Civil. Inglaterra y España llegaron a las costas de México y Después de las presiones realizadas a México se dieron cuenta que éste no

Meanwhile, in Mexico, armies from England, Spain and France were insisting on payment of old war debts. The Mexican nation could not afford to pay and the only power that could have helped Juárez, the United States, was now in a Civil War of its own. England and Spain arriving at Mexican ports realized that their pressures could not force Mexico to pay and their forces returned to Europe.

podía cubrir la deuda y decidieron retornar a Europa.

Seis mil soldados Franceses marcharon a la ciudad de México.

Six thousand French troops were marched into Mexico.

Sin embargo los Franceses con la esperanza de establecer la Monarquía en México, marcharon con 6,000 soldados para atacar la ciudad de Puebla. La fecha del ataque fue el 5 de Mayo de 1862. Los invasores Franceses se encontraron con unos Mexicanos tan llenos de valentía y vigor que obtuvieron la victoria. es por eso que esta fecha es día de fiesta para todos los Mexicanos. Es un día que simboliza la libertad del espíritu del pueblo Mexicano.

The French, however, with hopes of establishing a monarchy, marched 6,000 French soldiers to attack the city of Puebla. The date was May 5, 1862. The attack from the French invaders was met with such vigor and bravery on the part of the Mexican soldiers that Cinco de Mayo has become a National Holiday in Mexico. It is a day that symbolizes the free spirit of the Mexican people.

Las tropas Francesas fueron derrotadas por las tropas Mexicanas.

The French troops were defeated by the Mexican forces.

Napoleón no podía aceptar su derrota. Mandó más soldados Franceses a la ciudad de México. La lucha entre los Liberales, el partido que el pueblo aceptaba para ser gobernado, y los Conservadores, que deseaban ser gobernados por Franceses, siguió por varios años. El imperio de Maximiliano y Carlota en México sólo duró hasta que sus tropas fueron derrotadas en el año de 1867.

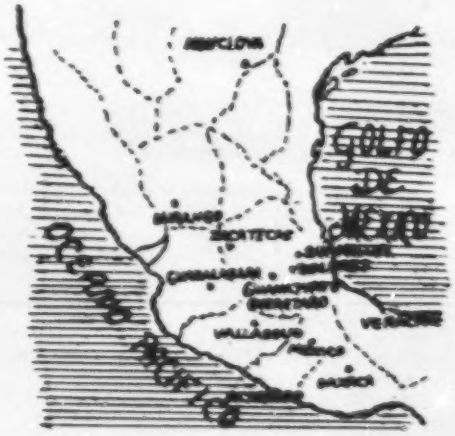
Napoleon could not stand such a defeat. He sent more French soldiers to Mexico. War between the liberals who wanted rule by the people in Mexico and the conservatives who wanted the French to rule continued for several years. Maximilian and Carlota became brief rulers in Mexico until the defeat of Napoleon's troops in 1867.

La Emperatriz Carlota perdió la razón y pasó sus últimos años con su familia en Beligium. El Emperador Maximiliano fué ejecutado en Junio 19, 1867. Cartas de todo el mundo recibió Juárez en las que le pedían dejara con vida a Maximiliano. Pero Juárez de-

The Empress Carlota became insane and spent her remaining years in Belgium with her family. The Emperor Maximilian was executed June 19, 1867. Letters from all over the world were sent to Juárez begging him to spare Maximilian's life. But Juárez did not

cidió no volverse atrás en la determinación tomada. Su contestación fue "No soy yo el que le priva de su vida, es la ley y el pueblo."

give in. His reply was, "It is not I who takes his life, but the law and the people."



El pueblo de México dió a entender claramente que ellos eran capaces de escoger a sus propios gobernantes y que no volverían a permitir ser mandados por extranjeros.

The people of Mexico thus made it clear to the world that they could run their own government and would never be dominated by a foreign power again.

Don Benito Juárez falleció de un ataque al corazón el 18 de julio de 1872. Hoy en día Juárez es considerado como uno de los libertadores más grandes en México y se le honra además por haber sido un hombre que luchaba con su pueblo y para su pueblo.

Benito Juárez died of a heart attack July 18, 1872. Today, he is considered Mexico's greatest liberator and honored as a true man of the people.

De parte del pueblo Mexicano y de él, el President de México Licenciado Luis Echeverría Alvarez les presentó a todos los Chicanos de los Estados Unidos un busto de Benito Juárez en el "Año de Juárez" (1972). Este busto se exhibe así como el dibujo arriba en frente de la Presidencia Municipal de Cristal.

On behalf of the citizens of Mexico and himself, Mexican President Licenciado Luis Echeverría Alvarez presented the Chicanos of the United States with a bust of Benito Juárez on Juárez' anniversary year (1972). This bust is exhibited as illustrated above in front of City Hall in Cristal.

Durante cada celebración anual del Cinco de Mayo en Cristal y en todas las comunidades Chicanas por todo los Estados Unidos muchísimos Chicanos y Chicanas de todas edades presentan oraciones al público. Cada celebración siempre se concluye con los oradores, los declamadores y el público dando el siguiente grito:

¡VIVA MEXICO!
¡VIVA MEXIVO!
¡VIVA MEXICO!

y en Cristal el público le agrega:

¡VIVA CRISTAL!
¡VIVA LA RAZA!

During every annual Cinco de Mayo celebration in Cristal and in all Chicano communities throughout the United States many Chicanos and Chicanas of all ages make speeches. Every celebration is always terminated with the speakers and crowds shouting:

VIVA MEXICO!
VIVA MEXICO!
VIVA MEXICO!

and in Crystal City the crowd adds:

VIVA CRISTAL!
VIVA LA RAZA!

CINCO DE MAYO

Objectives

1. The student will demonstrate his comprehension of the significance of "el cinco de mayo" by answering correctly eight of the ten questions on the enclosed test.

2. The student will demonstrate his comprehension of the significance of "el cinco de mayo" by participating in oral discussions utilizing study questions 1-4.

Oral Questions for Discussion

1. Why do we celebrate "el cinco de mayo?"

2. What kind of celebration is held in Crystal City for "el cinco de mayo?"

3. Who was Benito Juarez? Why do we have a statue of him by the City Hall?

4. In what way can the struggle of the Mexican people against the French be compared to the Chicano Movement?

Activities

1. Read for class discussion the enclosed poem, "Cinco de Mayo."

2. Have students listen to cassette of "Don Benito Juaréz" and sing along.

3. Have students interview Senior Citizens in the community about past Cinco de Mayo celebrations and report to the class.

4. Have students divide into groups and prepare a debate on the pros and cons of a monarchy versus a democracy. Have each team clearly define what is meant by each term.

5. For independent research--have students report more fully on the life of Benito Juaréz. Include reasons as to why the new elementary school in Crystal City was named after him.

Test--Cinco de Mayo

Circle the answer. Circle the letter by the answer that best completes the sentence.

1. Cinco de Mayo is the date that the Mexican Army defeated the:

   a. Russians

   b. Americans

   c. French

2. The President during this time was:

   a. Santa Anna

   b. Luis Escheverria

   c. Benito Juarez

3. The year of the famous Cinco de Mayo battle is:

   a. 1910

   b. 1862

   c. 1776

4. Benito Juarez was a:

   a. Zapotec Indian

   b. Mayan Indian

   c. German immigrant to Mexico

5. At the time of the war, there were two political forces in Mexico:

   a. the Republicans and Democrats.

   b. the conservatives and liberals

   c. Raza Unida and Raza Libre

6. The group who wanted to establish a monarchy was:

   a. the Republicans

   b. Raza Libre

   c. the Conservatives

7. This group invited the following couple to rule Mexico:

   a. Napoleon and Josephine

   b. Martha and George Washington

   c. Maximilian and Carlota

8. In 1867, the man who called himself emperor of Mexico was:

   a. exiled

   b. given additional territory

   c. executed

9. After the events of this war, the people of Mexico made it clear:

   a. that they would never be dominated by a foreign power again:

   b. that they needed a king from Europe.

   c. that they were not interested in politics.

10. In Cristal, Benito Juarez is honored by:

   a. naming the new hospital after him.

   b. his statue by the City Hall.

   c. renaming the county, "Juarez County."